

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08910 101328Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 041658

O 101303Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6337

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8910

EXDIS

DEPT PASS INFO IMMEDIATE TO:

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CTF-65

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG

SUBJECT: US PRESS HANDLING OF PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE

1. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, SOVIETS HAVE PROTESTED TO GOE ABOUT USN HAVING BEEN ASKED TO ASSIST IN PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE. THEY HAVE STATED THIS ENABLES USG TO LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THEIR CLASSIFIED MINE SYSTEMS. AS PART OF CURRENT SOVIET DISPLEASURE THAT GOE SIGNED SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, SOVIETS HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR PRESSURE ON EGYPT RE VARIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE. IN RESPONDING, GOE HAS SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY USN ROLE. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT EGYPTIAN NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PORT SAID MINE CLEARANCE AND THAT USN IS SIMPLY PROVIDING SOME HELICOPTER AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN NAVY TO FACILITATE LATTER'S MISSION. IN VIEW HIGH SENSITIVITY THIS ISSUE, GOE HAS ASKED THAT WE ALSO ADHERE TO THAT LINE.

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2. IN VIEW ABOVE, I THINK IT UNDESIRABLE FOR TIME

BEING TO GIVE ANY EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO USN OPERATION
AT PORT SAID. I HAVE ASKED ALUSNA TO INFORM CDR CT-65
NOT RPT NOT TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEXT WEEK OR SO AS WE
HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED. I HAVE ALSO GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS
THAT AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO WANT TO
VISIT USS INCHON OPERATION SHOULD FIRST CLEAR THROUGH
THE APPROPRIATE GOE AUTHORITIES SINCE WE WANT TO CAST
THIS AS EGYPTIAN SHOW. OUR PEOPLE CAN, OF COURSE, HELP
THEM DO SO.

3. TRUST THAT ONCE PRESENT OUTCRY ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT SUBSIDES A BIT, WE WILL AGAIN BE ABLE TO
ARRANGE THAT USN RECEIVES PROPER PUBLICITY FOR ITS
SPLENDID EFFORT.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: CAIRO 8910 NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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